



ADVANCE PROJECT QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT January – March 2011 Submitted by Pact Nigeria Cooperative Agreement #620-A-00-05-00096-00

I. BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

A. Activity Summary

Implementing Partner: Pact, Inc.

Activity Name: Advocacy, Awareness, and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) Project

Activity Objectives:

Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms such as budget transparency, access to information, and judicial oversight

Strengthened public-private partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

USAID/Nigeria SO: SO11: Strengthened Foundations for Democratic Governance

Life of Activity (start and end dates): May 23, 2005 through March 31, 2012

Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount: \$12,173,848

Obligations to date: \$11,673,848

Current Pipeline Amount: \$2,572,481 of which \$525,706 is already sub-obligated and therefore not available for any purpose; leaving an

Effective Pipeline Amount of \$ 2,046,774

Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: \$214,377

Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: \$9,101,367 (or 9,627,074

including sub-obligations)

Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: \$410,000

Report Submitted by: Dan Spealman, Pact Nigeria Country Director

B. Summary of Outputs

Management outputs

Primary grants/program management accomplishments this quarter include the following:

- Supported existing partner CSOs through fund disbursements, oversight and mentoring.
- Prepared and released latest ADVANCE subgrants Request for Application (RFA) on 2011 Elections.
- Completed technical review of the applications received in response to the RFA
- Issued eight new subgrant awards for the 2011 election projects.
- Carried out reconciliations, tracking of cost share and closeout of a number of completed projects
- Finally concluded registration with the National Planning Commission

Program outputs

Program outputs are detailed in Section II. A quick summary of results from this quarter include:

- Grants, Finance and Administration training was conducted for key partners
- On-going capacity building was provided to the Chevron sponsored PPCD project and its consortium member NGOs.
- 8 ADVANCE partners conducted observers' trainings, and otherwise prepared for the upcoming elections in April
- FOI Bill advocacy at the state and national level led to progress for both levels

C. Recent Programmatic Context

FOI Bill Context

There were very positive developments for the national FOI Bill this quarter. In part due to continuous pressure from civil society, the FOI Bill finally scaled the hurdle of both chambers of the National Assembly, after nearly four years since its re-introduction in 2007. The House of Representatives passed the bill on February 24, 2011, while the Senate passed its own version of the bill on March 16, 2011. While the passage itself was cause for celebration, some stakeholders expressed dissatisfaction with the version of the FOI Bill passed by the Senate, especially the clause that mandates journalists to disclose their sources of information. As such, civil society, with ADVANCE assistance, will actively engage during the harmonization process to try to ensure that the best version of the bill possible finally passes. After the House and the Senate harmonize their versions, the bill will be transmitted to President Goodluck Jonathan for his assent, who recently pledged in a presidential debate that he would sign the bill.

There was also good news for the Lagos State FOI bill, as the State House of Assembly this quarter held a one-day public hearing on "A Bill for a Law to Provide Access to Public Records and Information." The Public Hearing was attended by government organizations, CSOs, media and private business organizations. The Speaker of the House has promised that the Bill will be passed into law before the end of the current legislative calendar.

Elections Context

Elections are due to take place in Nigeria in April 2011, marking a critical turning point for the country still dealing with the after effects of flawed 2007 elections, and so ADVANCE partners began preparing this quarter to engage with the process.

The government has chosen an esteemed academic and civil society activist, Professor Attahiru Jega, to preside over the Independent National Election Commission (INEC) and seems inclined to respect its autonomy, including by providing funds on time. Jega carries the expectations of the nation, but, as he emphasises, is no magician. He assumed office only in June 2010 and has juggled much needed reforms against the imperative of actually holding elections in 2011. He inherited an organisation complicit in the 2007 fraud, exposed to manipulation outside the capital and over which the new Electoral Act denies him full control. To his, and the nation's, credit, a gamble to conduct a risky voter registration exercise seems to have paid off, but its shaky start was a reminder of challenges, even in simply delivering materials around the vast country in a timely manner. The exercise, though far from perfect, appears to have increased confidence in the electoral authorities' ability to protect the integrity of the polls.

The April 2011 general elections - if credible and peaceful - would reverse the degeneration of the franchise since Nigeria returned to civilian rule in 1999, yield more representative and legitimate institutions and restore faith in a democratic trajectory. Anything similar to the 2007 sham, however, could deepen the vulnerability of West Africa's largest country to conflict, further alienate citizens from the political elite and reinforce violent groups' narratives of bad governance and exclusion. Flawed polls, especially if politicians stoke ethnic or religious divides, may ignite already straining fault lines, as losers protest results. Therefore, Pact and its partners are preparing for widespread observation and reporting across 16 states to help ensure transparent and credible elections in the coming quarter.

II. QUARTER PROGRESS

A. Program Management

This quarter, Pact worked to prepare and revise the second ADVANCE extension based on Mission feedback, and finally received approval for the extension at the end of April. Based on the approval of the extension, a new RFA focusing mainly on 2011 General Elections programming was issued to eight partner CSOs that met the selection criteria of the RFA. The applications received from the partners were thoroughly reviewed by Pact for quality, and the partners revised the proposals based on Pact feedback. Subgrants were then issued to the partners, and necessary disbursements of funds were made to the partners for the implementation of their respective projects in their target states.

Pact also commenced work with MRA for the extension of their project on the Freedom of Information Bill at national and state (Lagos) level based on the passage of the Bill at the national level by the two Chambers of the National Assembly. This extension will allow MRA to engage with the National Assembly for the harmonization of the passed Bill, and engage with the executive arm to ensure speedy assent to the Bill by the President. It will also enable MRA to work on the Bill in Lagos state for its passage by the State Assembly and assent by the State Governor based on the hope expressed by the Legislators.

ADVANCE Program Extension

In this quarter, Pact Nigeria worked extensively with Pact Headquarters and the Mission by revising the technical proposal and budget request for the Cost Extension of the ADVANCE program based on the series of comments sent by the Mission. USAID finally approved the extension from March 01, 2011 through March 31, 2012 during the quarter.

Regional/HQ Support

Pact Headquarters continued their usual support to Pact Nigeria through information sharing and advice on issues that have enhanced the management of the ADVANCE program.

Collaboration with other USAID IPs

In this quarter, Pact/ADVANCE participated in a series of meetings for USAID elections Implementing Partners, during which the partners shared information and coordinated activities. Growing out of these meetings, Pact collaborated especially closely with NDI by sending Pact partners to their Civil Society Elections workshop and their Training of Trainers for Election Observers. Pact/ADVANCE also collaborated with BBCWST on the training of CSOs on the Use of Communications for Strengthening Advocacy, Good Governance and Empowerment by sending two of its partner CSOs to attend the training.

General Portfolio Management

The ADVANCE subgrant portfolio as of this quarter increased to 68 subprojects from the previous 60 for the life of the award, and the cumulative number of CSO partners also increased to 32 (with the addition of ANEEJ and Centre LSD) as reported in the previous quarter. There was only one ongoing subproject (MRA) as of the beginning of this quarter but by the end of the quarter, the ongoing subprojects increased to 9 (MRA, ANEEJ, CITAD, CISLAC, Centre LSD, MULAC, IMC, YPI and ZCC).

Subgrant Summary Table

Recipient	Start Date	End Sate	Project Title	Focus	Advances/Disbursements, Actual Expenditures and Project Status					
					Obligated Amount Advances to Date (\$)			Expenditures or	Project Status	
					\$	Advances	Balance on Obligated Amt	Expenditures	Balance	
PWYP	30-Mar-06	31-May-07	Publish What You Pay Campaign in Nigeria	Awareness and advocacy around the NEITI and	\$140,051.18	\$140,051.18	-	\$140,051.18	-	Terminated
L				ongoing oil industry audit process						
MRA 2	30-Mar-06	31-Jul-07	,	Freedom of Information Bill (Legislative /Executive advocacy for the final stages of passage/implementation planning		\$120,605.53	-	\$120,605.53	(0.00)	Closed
IPC	30-Mar-06	31-Jan-08	·	Media audit and capacity building for increased effectiveness of CSOs in using the media for awareness on anti-corruption, trafficking, & budget monitoring		\$100,393.82	-	\$100,393.82	(0.00)	Closed
WOTCLEF	30-Mar-06	30-Jun-07		Increased awareness, public support and advocacy for more effective policies and enforcement of anti- trafficking laws.		\$85,065.49	-	\$85,065.49	0.00	Closed
CISLAC	20-Sep-06	30-Sep-07	Strengthening Civil Society Engagement of the Legislative Process through Targeted Policies	Legislative Advocacy & Tracking of Targeted Bills at NASS	\$157,419.48	\$157,419.48	0.00	\$157,419.47	0.00	Closed
Action Aid Int'	15-Aug-06	22-Feb-10	0 0		\$820,701.60	\$820,701.60	-	\$820,701.60	-	Closed
Nig										
JDPC/ACE	1-Nov-06	31-Dec-06	Voter Registration Monitoring in 15 states across all the 6 Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria	Voter Registration and Oversight of INEC	\$57,729.19	\$57,729.19	-	\$57,729.19	-	Closed
CITAD	9-Feb-07	30-May-07		Civic Education (Elections) including training of CBOs on voter education; distribution of voter education materials; voter education advocacy visits to traditional rulers and religious leaders; and conduct of voter education forums at grassroots level in 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kano, Jigawa and Bauchi States in the northern part of Nigeria		\$27,789.91		\$27,789.91	-	Closed
MULAC	1-Feb-07	30-Apr-07		Civic Education (Elections) including public awareness lectures for Islamiyya & Conventional schools; Seminar for Imams & Muslim clerics plus public enlightenment & education on the right to vote in 5 States (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto and Niger) in the Northern part of Nigeria		\$18,500.31		\$18,500.31	-	Closed
ACE	1-Mar-07	30-Nov-07				\$116,001.95	-	\$116,001.95	0.00	Closed

11	FOMWAN	8-Mar-07	30-Apr-07				\$62,192.76	-	\$62,192.76	(0.00)	Closed
	ZCC	27-Mar-07	31-Jul-07	Engaging the Processes of EFCC Amendment Act in Nigeria	Citizen Participation and Oversight including National summit on the passage of EFCC amendment Act; advocacy visits to chairman of Good Governance group in the House of Representatives & to the House ad-hoc committee; and press conference.		\$28,305.88		\$28,305.88	-	Closed
13	AAN	1-May-07	30-Sep-08	Strengthening Capacity of CSOs in HIV Budget Tracking & Improving Transparency in Resource Allocation for Effective Service Delivery in the Prevention & Treatment	Tracking & Oversight	\$48,320.81	\$48,320.81	•	\$48,320.81	-	Closed
14	CIRDDOC	1-May-07	30-Sep-08	Enabling CSOs to Monitor Government Spending on Education in Rivers State	Civic Participation and Oversight- Primary Education Budget Tracking & Oversight	\$35,671.40	\$35,671.40	-	\$35,671.40	-	Closed
15	JDPC, Ijebu-Ode	1-May-07	30-Sep-08	Enhancing CS Capacity to Engage the Public Budget Process through the Drawing of Shadow Budgets in Lagos State	·	\$46,537.22	\$46,537.22	-	\$46,537.22	-	Closed
16	CISHAN	1-May-07	30-Aug-08	Enhancing Capacity of CSOs in HIV/AIDS Budget Tracking & Monitoring of Allocation of Resource & expenditures for attaining MDG in HIV/AIDS in Kano & Rivers States		\$49,946.27	\$47,524.61	2,421.66	\$44,961.23	2,563.38	Complete
17	ERA	19-Sep-07	12-Aug-08		Conduct of Survey Research on NEITI process & practice including its Act, publication (e-copy) and dissemination of report; conduct of environmental parliament on NEITI; and advocacy campaign on expanding the mandate of NEITI.		\$34,888.73	-	\$34,888.73	-	Closed
18	CASS	19-Sep-07	18-Sep-08	Oil revenue transparency and civic oversight of the NEITI process in Rivers/Bayelsa states, as well as national perception survey in some targeted states in the remaining 5 geopolitical zones in Nigeria.			\$90,095.49	(3,568.80	\$91,670.20	(1,574.71)	Complete
19	ABGREMO	19-Sep-07	31-May-08	Legislative Advocacy & Capacity Building for CSOs on oil revenue transparency in Akwa Ibom and Cross river state	Legislative Advocacy and Capacity Building for Civil Society Organizations on Oil Revenue Transparency in Akwa Ibom, and Cross River States of Nigeria.	\$35,140.61	\$35,140.61	-	\$35,140.61	-	Closed
20	WANGONET	19-Sep-07	2/29/2009	Capacity Building for CSOs on oil Revenue Transparency and Civic oversight of the NEITI process in Nigeria	Conduct of Training on Extractive Revenues Transparency and Oil Sector Audit to address the identified gaps by CPPC.		\$23,637.79	3,498.43	\$18,062.12	5,575.67	Complete

	zcc	1-Feb-08	31-Mar-09	Production of citzens guide to information and process of NEITI as well as engaging government of Nigeria on NEITI audit report		\$40,026.94	\$40,026.94	-	\$40,026.94	-	Closed
21					stakeholder review & dissemination of audit report						
22	MULAC	24-Jan-08	18-Apr-08	Promoting Muslim Participation in Electoral reform process in Nigeria		\$9,751.08	\$9,751.08	-	\$9,751.08	-	Closed
	ACE	14-May-08	30-Jul-08		Support Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria and the Association of Professional Bodies in Nigeria to provide input to the ERC		\$29,317.52	-	\$29,317.52	-	Closed
24	NBA	15-May-08	31-Oct-08		Holding a roundtable with members on electoral reforms and drafting of mentioned policy documents.		\$29,388.89	564.02	\$27,498.29	1,890.60	Completed
25	CPPC	26-Jun-08	30-Dec-08	Processes	documents. Assessment of the capacity of CSO/NGOS currently engaged in, or are interested in audit process and NEITI/Oil Revenue budget performance monitoring and evaluation for WANGONET to use and train CSOs; and development and production of a reference manual on NEITI auditing		\$31,473.04	-	\$31,473.04		Closed
	CISLAC	26-Jun-08	30-Nov-08	Civil Society Engagement of Government on Oil Revenue Transparency and Civic Oversight of the NEITI Process	ů .	\$25,419.53	\$25,419.53	-	\$25,419.53	-	Closed
27	FOMWAN	27-Jun-08	30-Sep-08		Stakeholder consultation on electoral reform to develop memoranda and submit to the ERC	\$9,478.29	\$9,478.29	-	\$9,478.29	-	Closed
28	CISLAC	19-Jun-09	30-Nov-09	deepen NEITI Act implementation	Enhance Effective implementation of the NEITI Act in Nigeria	\$27,967.42	\$27,967.42	-	\$27,967.42	-	Closed
29	AAN	1-Jul-09	31-Dec-09	Sudjighten the Capacity of CSO in tracking meaturant in budget to improve transperancy in resource allocation for the effective service delivery in the prevention and treatment of HIV in Lagos state	To increase participation of non stateactors in the budget process in Lagos state	\$21,072.11	\$21,072.11	-	\$21,072.11	-	Closed
30	CIRRDOC	1-Jul-09	31-Dec-09	Enabling CSO's to monitor governament spending on	To consolidate on the achivevments of the previous project towards increasing access to eductaion budget in Rivers state	\$22,018.77	\$22,018.77	-	\$22,018.77	-	Closed

Total					\$3,252,091.04	\$3,226,997.39	\$25,093.65	\$2,902,905.91	\$324,091.48	
53 CITAD	17-Mar-11	16-May-11	Election Observation (Jigawa and Yobe States)	depoloyment of observers	\$ 29,696.00	1		\$ -	28,162.67	Open
52 ZCC	21-Mar-11	20-May-11	Observation of the 2011 Elections Building Confidence in the 2011 Election through	of observers and hosting of coordinating Training domestic election observers and	\$ 46,699.00	\$ 47,832.00		\$ -	47,832.00	Open
1 YPI	17-Mar-11	16-May-11	Reporting in Cross River & Akwa Ibom States (WISE Promoting Credible Elections in Nigeria Through Citizens	depoloyment of observers	\$ 28,299.99	\$ 26,599.99	·	\$ -		Open
		,	Working with Youths for Elections Observation and	Training domestic election observers and			1,700.00		26,599.99	
0 Centre LSD	14-Mar-11	•	Election Observation in Imo and Delta states of Nigeria	Training domestic election observers and	\$ 27,557.00				-	
9 MULAC	9-Mar-11		Towards Ensuring Credible Elections in Kaduna and	Training domestic election observers and	\$ 29,667.00		-/			
8 IMC	13-Mar-11		Training and Observation of 2011 Elections in Bauchi and		\$ 29,590.00		-,			
7 CISLAC			Enhancing the Credibility of the Electoral Process	Training domestic election observers and	\$ 29,293.33		,		26,293.33	_
6 ANEEJ			Public Budgetary Process as a means of poverty	Training domestic election observers and	\$ 28,815.00				27,181.67	
5 CSACEFA	10-Aug-10		Monitoring and Enhancing Civil Society Participation in	Primary education Budget advocacy and tracking at	\$ 29,870.60		,			
4 CISLAC			Strengthening Legislative Oversight and Civil Society	Legislative advocacy on NEITI	\$ 97,629.3				-,	
3 JDPC	1-Jun-10		Monitoring And Influencing Lagos State Education	Budget advocacy and tracking in Lagos State	\$ 11,746.67	7 \$ 11,746.67		\$ 10,743.87		_
2 CIRDDOC	6-Jan-10	15-Dec-10	Supporting CSOs to influence primary education budget	Budget advocacy and tracking in Rivers State	\$ 29,990.00	30,200.68	,			
11 PPDC	1-May-10	31-Dec-10	Sustained CSO Participation in Public Procurement Act	Implementation of PPA	\$ 149,365.0	0 \$ 147,019.34	,			_
10 ZCC	15-Apr-10	14-Sep-10	Promoting Popular Engagement of the NEITI Process.	Advocacy on NEITI Audit remediation	\$ 37,666.66	5 \$ 38,462.97			2,622.29	Comple
9 MULAC	12-Apr-10	31-Aug-10	Creating Pressure from Religious Group for The	Advocacy on passage of FOIB at National level and	\$ 25,267.00	27,316.25				Comple
38 MRA	1-Apr-10		Freedom of Information Advocacy 2010	Advocacy on passage of FOIB at National level and	\$ 65,508.00	5 65,562.43	(54.43)	\$ 41,933.56		
7 IMC	1-Apr-10		Enhancing The Capacity of Interfaith Mediation Centre	Further capacity enhancement of IMC plus advocacy	\$ 64,962.00	\$ 64,241.63	720.37	\$ 58,565.91	5,675.72	Compl
6 IMC	10-Jun-09	30-Nov-09	Capacity Building of IMC, via systems development	To enhance the capacity of IMC to enable handling of funds	\$ 27,975.12	\$27,975.12	-	\$27,975.12	-	Closed
5 MULAC	30-Sep-09		Creating Pressure from Religious groups for passage of the FOI bill	To effectively and maximally sensitize Muslim groups to engage with their representatives at the National Assembly with the view to pass the FOI Bill into law				\$16,633.30		Closed
4 CPPC	7-Aug-09	30-Nov-09	Findings For CSOs	the nation's extractive industry.	\$ 29,009.93					
			Analyzing the 2005 NEITI Audit Report Processes and	To initiate a process that would help empower adequately the Nigerian CSO/NGOs community in effective audit-based processing and advocacy in		\$29,018.62	(8.70)	\$29,018.62	-	Closed
3 CISLAC for NPWP	7-Aug-09	28-Feb-10		Procurement system						
	Ŭ a		Improved Citizens Participation in Public Procurement in	To promote accountability, transparency and	\$29,624.00	\$27,122.97	2,501.03	\$26,768.86	354.11	Comple
12 PPDC	7-Aug-09	28-Feb-10	CSO participation in Public Procurement Act Implementation in Nigeria	To promote accountability, transparency and popular participation in the Nigerian Public Procurement system	\$27,073.74	\$27,073.74	-	\$27,073.74	-	Closed
1 JDPC	9-Jun-09	31-Dec-09	Making Public Budget work for the Masses Through CSO engagement of the Agricultural and Education Budgetary provisions in Lagos state	Strenghten capapcity of CSO for effective involvement in the budget process as a way of promoting good governance and public service delivery						

In-Kind Sub-grants										
Recepient	Start Date	End Date		Amount estimated for	Final Grant Value	Amount Due for De-obligation	Status			
				In-Kind						
CISLAC, ZCC and AAIN	Various prior to awards	March 1, 2007	Legislative advocacy on the Fiscal	370,838.63	370,838.63	-	Closed			
1 (in-kind)			Responsibility Bill;							
JONAPWD	Wednesday, January 23, 2008	Friday, February 29, 2008	Mainstreaming Disability Concern in	9,796.63	9,796.63	-	Closed			
2			Electoral Reforms							
JONAPWD	Saturday, March 01, 2008	Monday, March 31, 2008	Disabled Engaging the Politicians &	19,519.99	19,519.99	-	Closed			
3			INEC for 2007 Elections							
4 PPDC	Thursday, April 10, 2008	Monday, June 30, 2008	PPDC Procurement Watch program	20,292.84	20,292.84	-	Closed			
5 PWYP	Wednesday, December 10, 2008	Wednesday, December 31, 2008	Annual General Meeting: PWYP	13,090.77	13,090.77	-	Closed			
6 PWYP	Monday, March 15, 2010	Tuesday, November 30, 2010		49,738.00	42,044.72	7,693.28	Open			
7 JDPC	Tuesday, June 01, 2010	Friday, December 31, 2010		17,672.00	22,709.06	(5,037.06)	Open			
Total				500,948.86	498,292.64	2,656.22				

onsu	ultantcies							
٧	Recepient	Start Date	End Date	Project Title	Amount estimated for In-Kind	Final Grant Value	Amount Due for De- obligation	Status
	ZCC 1	November 6, 2006	December 8, 2006	National Stick to the Issues Launch	2,312.50	2,312.50	-	Closed
	ZCC 2	February 8, 2007	April 30, 2007	Regional Stick to the Issues Launch	62,045.16	62,045.16	-	Closed
	ICTN 3	March 20, 2007	April 11, 2007	Democratic Right to Vote Credible Candidates into political positions	18,410.55	18,410.55	-	Closed
	CP 4	March 19, 2007	April 15, 2007	Improving Citizen's Participation in the 2007 Elections	16,122.85	16,122.85	-	Closed
	CDD 5	March 19, 2007	May 31, 2007	Policy dialogue on institutionalizing mechanisms to address violence against women in public life		18,364.84	-	Complete
	CDA 6	March 19, 2007	June 30, 2007	Facilitating A Mainstream Youth Agenda In The 2007 Electoral Process	14,167.70	14,167.70	-	Closed
	YPI 7	March 26, 2007	April 30, 2007	Nigeria Youth Colloquium on 2007 Elections	18,284.87	18,284.87	-	Closed
	Total				149,708.47	149,708.47	-	

B. Programmatic Results

The ADVANCE program has three primary objectives:

Objective ONE: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

Objective TWO: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation, including in electoral processes

Objective THREE: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

During the reporting period, significant progress was made under each of the key ADVANCE program objectives. Programmatic results are thus elaborated below.

Objective 1: Strengthened civil society organization (CSO) capacity for effective program and financial management

Pact/ADVANCE continued to provide technical assistance to all partners, some of which had on-going projects this quarter. The partners were assisted through interventions consisting of project proposal refinement and mentoring of existing partner CSOs on program implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation, monthly financial reporting, and quarterly program reporting.

Grants, Finance and Admin Training

Twelve ADVANCE partners were among the total of 46 CBOs that took part in 3 separate Grants, Finance and Administration Trainings organized by Pact Nigeria in Abuja this quarter. The trainings lasted for 4 days each were spread over 3 weeks between February 21 and March 25, 2011. The first set of trainings targeted 23 newly selected organizations and sought to augment participants' understanding of cost principles and the various categories of costs; enhance their ability to use the grant document as a guide for appropriate reporting; improve on their internal control measures; and reinforce the importance of operational policies and procedures for standardization and proper program implementation. The 3rd training was an advanced GFA training for existing partners that was aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge of grants management components; improving their capacity for better accountability; and ensuring adherence to applicable rules and regulations.

PPCD Consortium Mentoring

In this quarter, PACT Nigeria's Senior Civil Society Specialist continued to mentor and coach the PPCD project and consortium members with the specific objective of ensuring that the PPCD project office and consortium members offer quality service delivery through the application of skills acquired through Pact support.

PPCD Office: Over the period, a series of meetings were held with Prof. Femi Ajibola, Chairman of the PPCD Project Planning Committee on the project's programming and administration.

Some of the training needs of the PPCD and Consortium members were discussed and yielded the decision to undertake a Budget Advocacy and Monitoring Training of Trainers and a Peace Building Training of Trainers. The need to target the PPCD Project staff on the application of the participatory methodology in programming was discussed and agreed, as well as the need for the project to properly capture all its work to enable a proper in house evaluation and preparation of reports for Chevron. To deal with the identified challenges, it was agreed that the ADVANCE Senior Civil Society Specialist (SCSS) would co-facilitate a 2 day reporting training for the project office and consortium members —including representatives of Chevron. The training is scheduled to take place during the next quarter in Warri.

The PPCD project office was also mentored and coached on the preparation of a Communication Strategy Document. The first draft is ready for the input of the PPCD Planning Committee, while it is in use at the Project Office, it is expected that it would be fine-tuned upon approval for sharing.

The PPCD Project Manager was also mentored on the reporting process and proper content, as the SCSS observed that their practices were not capable of properly capturing the germane issues discussed at meeting and seminars. The observation was particularly related to the process of preparing the report of the Peace Building Committee and the mentoring advice that there should be some consistency with regards to who attends a meeting and who prepares the final report was accepted.

Finally, the SCSS co-facilitated the inaugural meeting of the (expanded) PPCD Peace Building Committee, which was attended by representatives of the Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU) Peace Building Committees from the Regional Development Councils (RDCs). The focus of the meeting was to ensure that the concerns of the Team Leads were properly reflected in discussions with the representatives of the RDC GMoU Peace Committees.

New Nigeria Foundation: The quarter started for New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) with a 2 day strategic plan retreat which was held in Lagos on the 12-15 January 2011 and facilitated by Pact Nigeria's SCSS. The retreat produced the final draft Strategic Plan document for the organization, which will soon be finalized. Before the meeting, there were series of preparatory sessions with the management of NNF and the NNF in-house Committee on strategic planning, which focused primarily on their programs and administrative set up, challenges and aspirations.

Pact Nigeria's SCSS also provided NNF management and staff with support on the content and framework for the preparation of the report of a study on the transport situation in parts of Lagos State which they conducted for the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LAMATA). The support focused on the use and usefulness of the data collected, and individual mentoring and coaching to staff that needed such in the preparation of aspects of the report. The newly hired Program Manager at NNF was also provided with continuous mentoring and coaching on all aspects of her work.

Morgan Smart Foundation for Development: Morgan Smart Foundation for Development focused on meeting its identified capacity gaps during the quarter. Several discussions with the Managing Trustee, Dr Omawumi Urhobo on the need to take a second look at its constitution and the present Board membership has resulted in her request for advice on the

MSDF Constitution, which she hopes to use as a guide in making some changes in the organizational structure. There were also sessions held with the program staff of MSDF on the preparations of sundry proposals including one to the Commonwealth Foundation on the Role of CSOs in endangering local governance for sustainable development in Nigeria. The support for them on this is still ongoing, and the plan is to use it to further the training, mentoring and coaching that they have so far received under the project.

Niger Delta Professionals for Development: This quarter, Pact Nigeria's SCSS provided hands on training on proposal writing and development for staff of NIDPRODEV at their request. Apart from the training, they were guided through the actual preparation of a proposal for submission to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States, which is expected to be submitted next quarter.

NIDPRODEV was also provided with support in their recruitment process for the posts of Senior Program Manager and Development Communications Specialist. The support included making input into the job descriptions for the positions, advising on the shortlist of applications, and serving on the Interview panel.

NIDPRODEV also was given mentoring support and coaching on preparations for the public presentation of its latest project report titled: Citizen Report Card on Public Services, Good Governance and Infrastructure Development in 120 Niger Delta Communities. The report, which covered 120 communities in 6 states is the output of a project they undertook with support from the European Union.

Finally, the SCSS had mentoring sessions with the Executive Director of NIDPRODEV on restructuring the organization and making it more efficient in light of their expanding program portfolio.

African Centre for Corporate Responsibility: African Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) ceased being part of the PPCD consortium this quarter, following the notice issued by NNF.

Objective 2: Increased CSO capacity for effective advocacy for key policy reforms and civic participation

This quarter, the main advocacy activity was that of preparations by ADVANCE partners to conduct election observation. The main foci of each of the partners' work was on recruitment of domestic observers and election observation training for those observers. In all, the eight partners were working in 16 states spread across the six-geopolitical zones of the country including FCT. The partners and their target states are: ANEEJ for Edo and Ebonyi; CISLAC for FCT and Kano, Centre LSD for Imo and Delta; ZCC for Oyo and Lagos; MULAC for Kaduna and Zamfara; CITAD for Yobe and Jigawa; IMC for Plateau and Bauchi; and YPI for Cross River and Akwa Ibom.

MULAC

In the quarter under review, MULAC with the support of ADVANCE, sought to enhance the credibility of the 2011 elections by preparing to deploy trained, unbiased and non-partisan individuals to observe the voting process of Zamfara and Kaduna states.

The process began with MULAC nominating five of its members to serve as the recruitment team. This team was given the responsibility to recruit 90 election observers in Kaduna and Zamfara states from registered MULAC member organizations based on certain criteria. Each candidate to be recruited had to be nominated by their various organizations by a letter of attestation of character to be signed by the head of the organisation. The project team then met and deliberated on the recommendations of the recruitment team and thereby selected 80 persons as elections observers to be trained, while 10 were given the status of reserves.

Next, the capacities of those 90 selectees (plus additional attendees) were built on domestic observation through trainings held in Kaduna and Zamfara states on the 24th and 27th of March. The trainings were aimed at building their capacities to provide an impartial and accurate assessment of the elections based on some indicators. The trainings began with participants being taken through a Code of Conduct for Domestic Election Observers and each provision being discussed. Elements of the Code included:

- Respect for the laws of Nigeria and the authority of INEC
- Respect for the integrity of the observation mission
- Maintaining strict political impartiality
- Non-obstruction of the election process
- Maintaining accuracy of observation and being professional in drawing conclusions
- Refrain from making public comments to the public on media on behalf of MULAC

The main session in the trainings was, "Understanding the Elections Observation Checklist." This was the session that participants were taken through each item on the observers' checklist and thorough explanations given and a common understanding of the definitions of each section achieved. Issues like setting up of a polling unit; voting process and counting process where explained.

The trainings were capped up with a presentation on how to use twitter as a tool for achieving transparency in the elections. These sessions defined what twitter is; its importance and relevance in the context of Nigerian elections and practical steps on how to use it. Participants were now encouraged to use this tool to share information while on their observation mission. The trainings ended with participants signing the Code of Ethics and agreeing to be guided by it.

IMC

In the quarter under review, IMC selected 80 community members to serve as Domestic observers in the 2011 Elections in Plateau and Bauchi States. These domestic observers were carefully selected based on specific criteria in conjunction with the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI). The numbers of observers were evenly shared with each faith producing 40 each in consonance with the approach of the organization.

IMC held two trainings on Domestic Election Observation in Bauchi and Plateau states to build the capacities of proposed domestic observers to effectively observe the forthcoming general elections in the 2 states. The trainings for the two states were held concurrently 74 observers on the 23rd of March. The training curriculum was adapted from the NDI's Manual for Domestic Observers as agreed to with Pact, in order to achieve some coordination with USAID funded projects on elections.

The training sessions included the following:

- 1. Election Day Observation, Polling Unit Set and Voter Accreditation.
- 2. Reporting on Election Day Voting.
- 3. Reporting on Collation and Result Declaration..
- 4. Reporting Incidences to NDI's National Election Incidence Centre (NEIC) and ADVANCE's Twitter page for elections.
- 5. Rights, Duties and Code of Conduct for Domestic Election Observers.

CISLAC

In the quarter under review, CISLAC began implementing its project aimed at building public confidence in the electoral process and contributing towards a credible 2011 elections in F.C.T and Kano State. The project started off with capacity building of proposed domestic observers on elections observation. A total of 60 persons were recruited to be trained and deployed. The first training session was held for the 30 prospective observers (plus additional trainees) in the F.C.T on March 24th and the second training was also held for 30 observers (along with additional trainees) on March 30th.

In the both trainings, materials were delivered over two sessions using power point presentations. The first sessions were on: *Overview of the Electoral Process and the Observers' Role* and covered elections, philosophical and legal framework, rationale for observers, what to observer, and Code of Conduct. The second Session was a practical and participatory session on *Observation and Reporting Templates for the April 2011 Elections*. It was comprised of both plenary and breakout/groups sessions and addressed filing the checklist, incidence reporting, the National Election Incident Reporting (NEIC) mechanism, the Swift Count methodology. Participants were also introduced to reporting through Twitter. At the close of the workshop, the participants were asked to sign the Pledge Form listing the requirements placed on them by the Code of Conduct.

Also this quarter, CISLAC for identification purposes produced 60 t-shirts; Face Caps and Identity Cards to be used by domestic observers during their assignment. Although materials were issued by INEC to accredited organizations, these were grossly inadequate for the number of observers scheduled for deployment.

YPI

Recognizing the need to mobilize youth participation for 2011 elections observation, Pact supported the Young Peoples' Initiative (YPI) this quarter to begin its preparations for that task in Cross River and Akwa Ibom states.

YPI conducted two trainings for a total of 91 people aimed at preparing the Domestic Election Observers (DEO) on 2011 election monitoring and observation. In Cross River State YPI held its training on the 28th of March, 2011, while in Akwa Ibom State (AKS), the training took place on the 29th of March 2011. Topics of the presentations during the trainings included: the importance of adhering to the observation Code of Conduct; strategies to be taken to remain non-partisan; reporting through the checklist; Twitter; reporting incidents to National Election Incident Center; as well as the importance of locating Polling Units.

Center LSD

Center LSD, with the support of Pact, will be deploying observers to Imo and Delta States to monitor the 2011 General Elections in the next quarter. This quarter, drawing from their contacts and networks in those states, the Centre selected 31 election observers in Imo State and 30 election observers in Delta State and then provided training for those observers and additional participants. The Imo state training held between March 30 - 31 and the one for Delta State held between March 31^{st} - April 1^{st} .

The trainings reviewed the role of election observation and the characteristics of an election observer. It was emphasized that observation has become crucial because of the deliberate disobedience by citizens of electoral laws. And so to enhance the credibility of the system and instill confidence in the electorates, the need for observation has become very crucial. Participants were taught what to observe before, during and after the elections. They were also taken through the NDI-produced observation checklist to ensure understanding of how to use it. In addition, the Incident Report Form was reviewed and various means of reporting incidents, such as SMS and Twitter were explained.

The participants were then taken through the Code of Conduct for election observers to enable them understand all the issues that have to do with observation. Some of those issues included the need to: respect for sovereignty and international human rights; respect the laws of the country and the authority of electoral bodies; respect the integrity of the observation mission and maintain strict political impartiality at all times; ensure observers do not obstruct the election process; provide appropriate identification; maintain accuracy of observations and professionalism in drawing conclusions; and refrain from making comments to the public or the media before observation data is tallied and analyzed. At the end, participants were asked to sign the pledge accompanying the code of conduct for election observers.

Centre LSD also organized, a pre-election press briefing targeted at raising awareness on the need to ensure free, fair and credible elections. The briefing took place on March 31st 2011, and several newspapers and electronic media carried the report, including the Leadership Newspaper of April 1st, 2011.

ANEEJ

In order to contribute to credible, free and fair 2011 elections, ANEEJ will deploy 30 domestic observers each to Edo and Ebonyi states. This quarter, trainings where held in each of those states for the proposed domestic observers. The Delta state training was held in Benin on March 28th, and the Ebonyi state training was held on March 30th in Abakaliki. Participants were drawn from a cross section of civil society organizations, media and students.

The objectives of the training were to:

- Train participants on the role of election observers in the electoral process
- Train participants on the use of the monitoring checklist, incidence report form and other materials.

The facilitators jointly took participants through eight (8) sessions which included:

- Session 1: Workshop Objective/ Participants Expectations/Ground Rules
- Session 2: Democratic Election and the Concept of Election Observation
- Session 3: Election Day Observation-Issues
- Section 4: Election Day Observation-Logistics

- Section 5: INEC Guidelines
- Section 6: Reporting What Was Observed On Election Day Checklists
- Session 7: Reporting Incidents (National Election Incidents Centre, NEIC)
- Session 8: Rights, Duties and Code of Conduct for Domestic Election Observers

ZCC

ZCC's efforts are aimed at recruiting, training and deploying independent, non-partisan observers for the 2011 elections in Lagos and Oyo states, with a view to promoting public confidence in the electoral process especially against the backdrop of the experience of past elections. To that end this quarter, 80 copies of a NDI's training manual on domestic observation of elections were re-produced with the permission of NDI. The training module contained:

- The election observation methodology
- Leveraging community as sources of election information
- Understanding the election observation checklist
- Election observation and team working

Subsequently, on March 31st, ZCC held training on Domestic Election Observation in Lagos state for 36 proposed elections observers based on these materials. These proposed election observers were chosen from ZCC's network members based on criteria's like non-partisanship and integrity. The training was aimed at building the capacities of these proposed observers on the basic techniques and principles of election observation, and included four sessions:

- 1- Overview of the electoral process and the role of an observer
- 2- Observation reporting for the 2011 election
- 3- Syndicate group work
- 4- National Election Incident Centre (NEIC) and incident reporting and the use of Twitter.

At the end of the training, participants expressed that they felt fully equipped and prepared for the task ahead of each of them. All the participants were also asked to sign the code of conduct, attached to a supervisor, and informed about the polling unit where they were expected to carry out their assignment. A second training is expected to hold next quarter.

Objective 3: Strengthened public-private (CSO) partnerships to fight corruption through public oversight agencies and initiatives

Freedom of Information Bills

In the quarter under review, MRA continued its aim of ensuring the passage into law of the Federal and Lagos state FOI bills before the expiration of the tenures of these legislatures. During the quarter, Media Rights Agenda worked closely with the Lagos House of Assembly, providing technical support and necessary inputs into the FOI Bill. The organization also paid a series of advocacy visits to the State House of Assembly on January 11 and 12, February 17 and 28, and March 16 and 22 before the Public Hearing. The meetings took stock of the situation on the ground, drew up a list of stakeholders cutting across different sectors who were to be invited for the Public Hearing, and agreed on strategies for publicizing the public hearing, which MRA was to assist with.

The Public Hearing on the Freedom of Information Bill at the Lagos State House of Assembly was held at the House of Assembly premises on Friday, March 25, 2011 and was presided over by the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly. MRA mobilized media practitioners from newspapers, radio and television stations in the State, representatives of non-governmental organizations working in the media and other sectors, as well as other stakeholders to participate in the Public Hearing. At the hearing, both the Chairman of the House Committee on Information, and the Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary publicly acknowledged the tremendous assistance they received from Media Rights Agenda in the development of the Bill and the organization of the Public Hearing and thanked MRA for its assistance and collaboration. At the end of the exercise, the Speaker, promised that the Lagos State House of Assembly would pass the Bill into Law before the end of its current legislative calendar.

This quarter at the national level, Media Rights Agenda sustained its engagement with members of the National Assembly in its continuing efforts to get them to pass the Freedom of Information Bill. Various advocacy visits were made to the National Assembly during the period and specifically to the House of Representatives on February 23 to 25 and to the Senate on March 2 to 5; March 8 to 10; and March 15 to 17, 2011, in addition to other strategy planning meetings with civil society partners. This sustained advocacy finally met with success this quarter as both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed the Bill. The House of Representatives passed the bill on February 24, 2011 while the Senate passed its own version of the bill on March 16, 2011.

Prior to that, on Thursday, February 10, 2011, the House of Representatives relisted the bill for consideration, and the Speaker ordered that the Joint Committee on Justice, Information and National Orientation should commence work on the bill immediately and present a progress report within the next seven days. Following this development, MRA immediately key members to discuss how they would proceed with this task. It was subsequently agreed that the Joint Committee would hold an interactive session with civil society and other stakeholders on Monday, February 21, 2011, to discuss concerns about aspects of the Bill.

At the session, members of the Joint Committee raised several concerns about various aspects of the Bill, which were addressed to their satisfaction by the civil society representatives present. They thereafter requested that three or four civil society representatives volunteer to work with the Secretariat of the Joint Committee to make modifications to Bill as agreed during the interactive session. This provided an opportunity to strengthen many aspects of the Bill. And as a result, the report that was presented to the House by the Joint Committee proposed a much better Bill than the one the House had been considering. On February 24, 2011, after a debate of the Joint Committee report, The House passed the revised version of the Bill proposed by the Joint Committee almost in its entirety without dissent.

Following the passage of the Bill by the House of Representatives, MRA held a strategy meeting with some of its civil society partners in Abuja to formulate a plan for getting the Senate to also pass the Bill speedily. The key elements of this plan were to get various groups and individuals to put pressure on the leadership of the Senate to resume consideration of the Bill and to adopt the same text as passed by the House of Representatives. After engagement of key Senators by MRA and its partners, the Senate passed a Bill on March 16, 2011. But unfortunately, it was only a slightly modified version of the text of the Bill previously proposed by its Committee on Information, on which Media Rights Agenda and its partners had raised serious concerns, that was passed.

It is hoped that deficiencies of the Senate version will be addressed during the harmonization process, and MRA and its partners have detailed a comprehensive strategy to try to ensure that this occurs quickly. As part of this strategy, MRA has developed a set of recommendations to the Conference Committee with proposals for the harmonization of the two versions of the Bill to reconcile areas of differences. MRA has also worked with its partners in the core team to develop profiles for members of the Conference Committee on the Senate side and the anticipated members of the Conference Committee on the House of Representatives side to facilitate engagement with them and provide lobbyists with crucial information about members of the Conference Committee.

Media Rights Agenda, leading other members of the Freedom of Information Coalition, also continued its sponsored text messaging campaigns targeted at Senators, members of the House of Representatives and members of the Lagos State House of Assembly during the period under review. Again, responses from members who responded were varied: some promised to support the Bill, others urged the Coalition to intensify its lobbying of members, some said the FOI Coalition should also encourage the media to write more responsibly as the actions of some media practitioners was creating fear and resentment in the minds of lawmakers while a few vowed never to support the Bill. MRA followed up the text messages with calls to those who expressed reservation in a bid to address their concerns and in many cases, was able to convince them.

C. Problems and Opportunities

Partner and Programmatic Challenges

- The electioneering activities have impeded the harmonization process of the federal FOI Bill.
- Partners were challenged to ramp up in time for the elections, given the short time
 frame necessitated by the wait for the approval of the ADVANCE extension. But by
 working closely with Pact, they were able to do so in time to have all of their
 observers trained and ready to deploy by election day.

Administration and Management Challenges

- Delay by some partners to submit their quarterly/final financial reports and to also adequately provide response to queries on their reports caused delay to some disbursement for those with on-going projects and the closeout of some of the completed projects.
- The lengthy approval process for ADVANCE's 2nd Extension resulted in a short programming period (just March) for this quarter since it was not contractually possible to issue any new awards to partners without the approval of the extension by the Mission. Nevertheless, Pact was able to move quickly and issue subawards to all partners by the end of the quarter.

Partner and Programmatic Opportunities

• The upcoming General Elections provided an opportunity for Pact/ADVANCE to collaborate with NDI by buying into their training of trainers for election monitors.

- The elections also allowed Pact to rapidly re-engage with a number of key partners and prepare for the carrying out the essential monitoring activities that will take place next quarter.
- Pact also collaborated with BBCWST this quarter by sending two of its partners to attend their training on the Use of Communications for Strengthening Advocacy, Good Governance and Empowerment.

Administration and Management Opportunities

Pact/ADVANCE continued to reap the expected benefits of sharing facilities, logistics
and staff time, as well as co-planning activities with the Community REACH
HIV/AIDS program and the LEAD local governance program.

D. Activity Changes and Explanations

Most activities occurred as planned this quarter. However, those plans were in a constant state of flux while Pact awaited approval of its extension request. As the request was revised, plans were changed over time, including pushing back the start of electoral activities until March.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

A. Partner Activities

- Advocacy visits on harmonization of the House and Senate FOI Bills
- Advocacy Visits to Ministers and Presidential Aides on the FOI Bill
- Advocacy visits to members of the Lagos State House of Assembly and to the Fashola administration on the FOI Bill
- Deployment of CSOs Observers to monitor the Presidential, NASS and Governorship Elections in 16 states of the federation.
- Reporting on election observation
- Most other activities dependant on subgrants issued

B. Pact Activities

- Ongoing mentoring of all existing and new partners, on the implementation of their outstanding activities.
- Modification of existing subgrants as the need arises
- Continuation of the implementation of capacity building intervention activities for PPCD project

C. Subgrant Management

- Support existing partner CSOs through fund disbursements, oversight and mentoring.
- Closeout of completed projects.
- Preparation and issuance of second RFA on 2011 ADVANCE programming other than elections
- Review and selection of applicants (mostly from the existing partners) from the RFA
- Work with the selected partners to finalize their proposals.
- Process and issue new subgrant awards for the proposed projects.

IV. Quantitative Indicator Data

#	Ind. Reference #	Indicator	Collection	Target for FY 11	Quarter Target	Quarter Result	Cumulative Result FY 11	Comments
1		Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing marginalized group(s) engaging with government	Quarterly	Women= 25 Youth = 13 Islamic = 19 Disabled = 8 Total = 65	0	W=2 Y-1 I=1	W = 11 Y = 6 I = 1 D = 0 Total = 18	
2	S11.1	Women-focused CSOs supported by USG assistance to engage in advocacy and/or promote democratic participation	Quarterly	25	0	0	9	
5	GJD 4.1.3	Number of CSO advocacy campaigns supported by USG	Quarterly	35	10	11	34	
7	GJD 4.1.8	Number of USG Assisted Civil Society Organizations that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions	Quarterly	35	0	0	50	
9		Number of people trained (disaggregated by gender)	Quarterly	M=530 F=370 T=900	550	M=445 F=221 T=666	M=491 F=258 T= 749	
12		Increased Civil Society Participation in Budgetary Processes	Quarterly	State=12 Nat=0	0	0	10	
13	S11.2.1	Increased Civil Society Participation in NEITI implementation	Quarterly	8	0	0	8	
14	GJD 4.1.2	Number of Civil Society Organizations using USG assistance to improve internal organizational capacity	Annually	50	10	9	18	